

MOTION

A “Super Scooper” is a large amphibious aircraft that scoops water from bodies of water in order to drip on wildfires. They are considered one of the most effective firefighting aircraft in the world. Los Angeles fire authorities typically lease the availability of such aircraft each year from a location in Canada, but local fire officials have requested more access or availability of Super Scoopers to combat the wildfires that continue to burn more frequently throughout the Los Angeles region.

Unlike most other firefighting aircraft that must return to base after each drop, Super Scoopers can fly continuously for three to four hours, returning to bodies of water to collect and release on fires repeatedly. It’s a specialized task becoming more in demand as a warming climate contributes to bigger, hotter, more frequent blazes that are often difficult to control. The powerful engines of Super Scoopers allow pilots to more safely slow down and execute drops precisely, even in extreme weather conditions.

When fire emergencies strike, having Super Scoopers based locally, and ready to be deployed instantly, would greatly benefit not only the Los Angeles Fire Department’s ability to fight wildfires but would also be instrumental for the City’s neighboring jurisdictions given the nature of regional wildfires. Local coordination among various fire departments and jurisdictions is necessary to better protect the region against future fire emergencies.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) be instructed to report with a funding plan to permanently acquire one or more Super Scoopers to replace or supplement those that are being leased by the City of Los Angeles. This report should also include what the City is paying per year through leasing the equipment, and how it compares to the value of purchase.

I FURTHER MOVE that the CAO and the LAFD report on available county, state, or federal funding that may be available for the purchase of one or more Super Scoopers. Specifically, the report should detail the use of a joint powers authority, such as a regional Council of Governments, to acquire one or more Super Scoopers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD report on where such Super Scoopers could be housed and maintained locally, in order to provide more immediate availability and coverage within the Los Angeles region.

PRESENTED BY:



TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:


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